

## **Race and Social Justice / Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee**

2/9/92

Note card responses to question, "What are the areas where city staff should focus efforts to address race and social justice? What are the opportunities for NPAC to intersect / align with RSJI?"

### **Outreach / engagement**

- Outreach to all levels of income to participate and have a voice.
- Appropriate outreach = Time to recruit.
- Trusted advocates in south end communities – can't rush this.
- Communication through trusted advocates.
- Encouragement to give input in a variety of forms.
- Engage children.
- Assistance with outreach materials.
- Honor cultural backgrounds in drawing out opinions on neighborhood planning. Go where they meet / are; engage leaders of their communities to speak on issues.
- Culturally appropriate outreach.
- This round of neighborhood planning has to touch every person and ask how they want to affect their community. This outreach has to happen before planning is kicked off, before status report distribution. Use of mail ballot? I don't know that answer.
- Ensure outreach and transparency is provided for all people.
- Continue outreach in our communities and find ways to authentically and effectively include members of diverse communities in the neighborhood plan update process.
- Public hearings should be encouraged to cross all genders, races and ethnicities.
- Seek at the district council level diversity representation to deliver of planning messages.
- Next round bring more people of color to table.
- Ensure that all communities are involved in the planning process. Make sure we go to the groups and not expect them to come to us.

### **Language accessibility**

- All NPAC and DPD / DON communication in multiple languages (print, e-mail, web).
- All public meetings in multiple languages.
- Outreach strategies that find a way to involve the numerous different cultural groups in our city, many of which don't speak English or trust figures of authority.

### **General comments re: policy, race, class, gender and sexual orientation**

- Social Justice as a component of each plan update.
- Include race and social justice as a component of the neighborhood plans.
- Diversity – racial and income level – the poor and working folks are just as important.
- Addressing all economic classes.

- RSJ in neighborhood plans – the more real power in neighborhoods, the more justice.
- Educating not race, but human kind issues; true understanding of race, traditions and cultures – historical means of communication and passing on information.
- Awareness and redress of policies that inequitably impact communities of color.
- Identify race neutral improvements that benefit all community members.

## **Housing**

- Renters are as important as owners (residential and business).
- Provide significant number of housing units so that people of all incomes can chose to live nearby – must have an affordable housing mandate for developments near transit stations.
- Diversity in housing thru zoning = land values.
- Consider that poorer families are often bigger than wealthier families and work to provide large units that are reachable to those families.
- Affordable housing as it relates to increased density in transportation centers and transit hubs.
- Keep fighting development – not replacing low income housing on a \$ for \$ basis.
- Consider lifestyle cost of different types of development densities. If denser development doesn't require a car it can be more affordable to all.
- Design for kids and seniors.
- The city needs to take the policy in the GMA to provide affordable housing for all income levels. That policy has strong racial and social justice implications. Plans should contain implementable policies that the city then enacts by ordinances to ensure housing affordable to all and that preserves the current ethnic, cultural, economic and racial mix rather than destroying it with gentrification.
- Encourage integration of families of different races to live affordably together. This may require zoning changes to allow different sizes of homes side by side. Make homeownership affordable and finance education needed to be able to continue homeownership successfully.

## **Data**

- Need data on specific area populations.
- Get accurately current demographic data from city and discuss it in planning content.

## **Other**

- Educational Access is a must!
- Consider the ways poorer families can create wealth with their own land.
- Retain family by providing concurrence – schools, fire, police, parks etc.
- Food from locally owned minority businesses at all south end public meetings.